



## **Franklin Public Schools**

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### **Superintendent's Report to School Committee August 27, 2019 School Committee Meeting**

#### **Opening of School**

We have had a very smooth opening of school! Yesterday, we greeted teachers and staff at our back to school meeting. Instead of hosting a speaker, I shared remarks with the faculty. I also recognized longevity benchmarks -- 35 educators will earn Professional Teaching Status with us this year, and will be recognized in the fall at a reception. A total of 56 faculty/staff members were recognized as reaching 10, 15, 20, 25 or 30 year milestones of service to FPS. To me, this just underscores and emphasizes what I learned early on as Superintendent -- our greatest asset is the dedication and talent of our faculty and staff.

The FEA president, Donna Grady, also welcomed back the faculty and staff. Donna's message focused on treating each other with kindness. It was the perfect complement to my message, which reinforced with educators the importance of spending time getting to know students and families as well as building relationships. For some of our educators, this will validate behavior that is already happening. For others, it will give them permission, if feeling pressured about "covering the curriculum, to pause on instruction for a time and build a foundation which will only strengthen instruction in the months to come.

The administrative team developed this expectation as an outcome of our retreat, where we focused on steps we can take to make our schools more welcoming and inclusive. You will see later tonight a focus on cultural proficiency supporting all four of the district's strategic objectives of our district's Strategy for Improvement. An entry point for everyone into this work is getting to know our students. In particular, we are encouraging educators to have students introduce themselves with their preferred names and correct pronunciations. We want to avoid the hurt and injury to one's identity that can come from a mispronunciation or misuse of someone's name. I've also encouraged staff to get to know each other, as I believe that the culture our staff experiences directly reflects onto the culture that the students experience.

It was a pleasure to greet students this morning. While there are always a few hiccups and wrinkles to iron out, busses were by and large on time and teachers greeted their students as is customary at the beginning of the year. Assemblies and meetings with students will be held in these early weeks as reminders of school culture, values, and expectations.

### **Increased Allocation for FY 20**

I wish to thank the Town Council for voting last Wednesday to grant an increased allocation of \$102,500 for Franklin Public Schools as we head back to school for the school year. To reiterate the reason, the State budget was approved in early August and came out as being more favorable to the Town of Franklin than originally communicated in the spring months. As a result, we were able to request the additional allocation to support two Kindergarten ESPs (for a total of 6 across the district) in the FY 20 budget, as well as elimination of the FHS parking fee.

I mention this again to reinforce how this came to be; it is not that we “found money” but rather the budget process is an evolving one and sometimes there are summer developments. This funding is tied to the reimbursement of Charter School tuition and is scheduled to fade over the next two years. This additional reimbursement is projected to be funded at 60% in FY21 and 40% in FY22.

### **Record Broken at Falmouth Road Race!**

We want to be sure that we send a big CONGRATULATIONS to FHS senior Tyler Brogan. He won the Tommy Cochary High School Invitational Mile last weekend at the Falmouth Road Race. He set a race record with a time of 4:21.62. With his victory, he won a \$2,500 grant for FHS athletics. Way to go Tyler and thank you!

### **Schedule Reminder**

Reminder for the community -- No School on Friday, August 30 and No School on Monday, September 2.

